United Nations A/C.4/63/SR.7

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
14 November 2008

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 13 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Argüello ..... (Argentina)

Contents

Agenda item 33: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 34: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Agenda item 35: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 36: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Agenda item 37: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*)

Agenda item 28: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

08-54658 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 33: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolutions and decisions under decolonization and related items.

Draft resolution I on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/63/23, chap. XII)

2. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had informed him that draft resolution I had no financial implications.

3. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

4. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 147 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.**

5. **Sir John Sawers** (United Kingdom) said that, as in previous years, his delegation had abstained in the vote. While it did not take issue with the main objective of the resolution, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its obligations fully in that regard, his delegation believed that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter fell to the government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

Agenda item 34: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Draft resolution II on economic and other activities (A/63/23, chap. XII)

6. **The Chairman** said the Secretariat had informed him that resolution II had no financial implications.

7. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo,

* The delegations of Belarus, Kuwait, Montenegro and Uganda subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 149 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.**

9. **Mr. Desmoures** (Argentina) said that the applicability of the resolution depended on the applicability of a given Territory's right to self-determination. Various General Assembly resolutions had established that in specific cases, such as those of the Malvinas (in which a sovereignty dispute existed), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the sole means of ending that special colonial situation was not self-determination, but a negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty. Since those islands and the surrounding maritime areas all formed part of Argentine territory and were currently subject to illegal occupation by the United Kingdom and unilateral exploitation of their natural resources, the resolution just adopted was totally irrelevant.

Agenda item 35: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*)

Draft resolution III on implementation of the Declaration (A/63/23, chap. XII)

10. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had informed him that draft resolution III had no financial implications.

11. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

* The delegations of Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and Montenegro subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

12. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 54 abstentions.*

13. **Ms. Lebovits** (France), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, the stabilization and association process country Albania, and, in addition, Moldova, said that while it supported the efforts of the specialized agencies to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories in educational, humanitarian and technical fields, the European Union considered that the mandates of those institutions must be scrupulously complied with. For that reason it had abstained from the voting on the draft resolution.

14. **Mr. Desmoures** (Argentina) said that the resolution just adopted should be implemented in keeping with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Committee.

Agenda item 36: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Draft resolution on offers by Member States of Study and training facilities (A/C.4/63/L.3)

15. *Draft resolution A/C.4/63/L.3 was adopted.*

Agenda item 37: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.4/63/L.4 on the question of Gibraltar

16. *Draft decision A/C.4/63/L.4 was adopted.*

Draft resolution IV on the question of New Caledonia (A/63/23, chap. XII)

17. *Draft resolution IV was adopted.*

Draft resolution V on the question of Tokelau (A/63/23, chap. XII)

18. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*

Draft resolution VI on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/63/23, chap. XII)

19. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) noting that the phrase "where there is no dispute over sovereignty", in paragraph 2, had not appeared in earlier such resolutions, proposed that a decision should be postponed pending clarification by the sponsors of the reason for its insertion.

20. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone a decision until the clarification was provided.

21. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution VII on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/63/23, chap. XII)

22. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France.

23. *Draft resolution VII was adopted by 153 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.**

24. **Mr. Desmoures** (Argentina), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the resolution just adopted should be interpreted and implemented in keeping with the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization regarding the Malvinas and, in particular, General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), and all statements by the Committee recognizing the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom, and which established that only the resumption of bilateral negotiations could achieve a fair, peaceful and definitive solution, taking into account the interests of the populations of those islands.

25. **Ms. Hill** (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had voted against the draft resolution because it considered that the obligation imposed on the United Nations to publicize information on decolonization constituted an unwarranted drain on the Organization's scarce resources.

Draft resolution VIII on the implementation of the Declaration (A/63/23, chap. XII)

26. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian

* The delegation of Andorra subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, France.

27. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 156 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.*

28. **Mr. Desmoures** (Argentina) recalled that visiting missions proceeded only in cases where no dispute over sovereignty existed, and that the Committee must have a specific mandate from the General Assembly in order for such a mission to take place.

29. **Ms. Hill** (United Kingdom) said that, despite the fact that it had voted against the draft resolution, the United Kingdom was committed to modernizing its relationship with its Overseas Territories, while fully taking into account the views of the peoples in those Territories.

Draft decision on increase in the membership of the Special Committee (A/63/23/Add.1)

30. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 28: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/63/20)

Panel discussion on Space Applications and Food Security

31. **The Chairman**, introducing the item, recalled that the Secretary-General had recently identified the global food crisis and climate change as two key challenges facing current and future generations. Over the next 40 years, world food demand would double and water insecurity would increase in all regions, thus the theme of the panel discussion was of fundamental importance. Since there were important interlinkages between food security issues and issues of climate change, health, energy, water and disaster management, the Committee should take a holistic approach and look to a range of tools for solutions.

32. **Mr. Arévalo Yepes** (Colombia) speaking as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) said that the Committee was currently working to apply space technology, such as geo-spatial data, to promote sustainable development and was contributing directly to the thematic work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Two of its most important achievements were the establishment of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

33. Man needed to improve his understanding of meteorology, climate and oceans in order to predict global changes and mitigate their effects. Satellites were used to monitor weather patterns and identify areas susceptible to pest infestation and plant disease; and data from high-resolution remote sensing satellites and global navigation satellite systems was used to develop techniques for identifying areas suffering environmental stress due to drought. Remotely sensed data also provided information on environmental indicators needed to map areas at risk for desertification, soil erosion and excessive salinization.

34. Earth observation had led to the development of instruments to improve the collection, storage, analysis and dissemination of data on food security and many food insecurity studies were based in part on information obtained from remote sensed data.

35. Finally, he said that COPUOS was currently studying ways to improve regional and interregional cooperation, that efforts must be made to include all actors, namely Governments, the scientific community and the user community.

36. **Mr. O'Connor** (Division for Sustainable Development), illustrating his statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that although cereal prices had peaked in May, currently they were twice as high as they had been in 2005. Some 800 million people in developing countries were undernourished and the recent rise in food prices had further swelled that figure. Global food stocks had also fallen sharply, increasing the vulnerability of countries to supply shocks. Governments had reacted to high food and energy prices by increasing food and fuel subsidies or by reducing fuel and food taxes, but such measures represented a drain on State resources. The

urban poor and those already living on less than a dollar a day were the worst affected.

37. The crisis partly reflected the increased demand for meat in emerging economies and the growing demand for biofuels. Trade had long been favoured by the Bretton Woods institutions as a response to food insecurity, however a focus on global efficiency rather than self-sufficiency was not viable in times of crises when food-producing countries imposed export bans. The Washington consensus that the State's role in support of agriculture should be dismantled had made crisis mitigation difficult, and agricultural subsidies in developed countries had made the situation worse for developing countries.

38. One solution would be to ensure that farmers were provided with seed, fertilizer and water, as well as secure market access. It was also necessary to ensure public investment and reverse the declining trend in donor support for agriculture, including through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

39. Since climate change would further exacerbate the situation, it was imperative to develop crop resilience. In addition, agriculture should be made less dependent on fossil fuels. In the future scramble for land resources, it would be important to ensure that the world's poor were not sidelined. In that connection he noted that, although they were the main agricultural producers in Africa, women's land ownership rights were precarious at best. Finally, he said that it would be vital to restore confidence in food markets by establishing regional buffer stocks.

40. **Mr. Nilsson** (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)), illustrating his statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that agricultural productivity in developing countries had declined sharply over the past two decades. Not only was the world's population growing but energy demand was expected to double by 2030. Meanwhile, meat consumption was expanding rapidly putting a further strain on production.

41. Public expenditure had not been supportive of agriculture and donor investments had also been declining. To make matters worse, incomplete or unclear property rights had led to land degradation in many parts of the world. Failed price policies, subsidies and export bans had further exacerbated the situation, and the small size of holdings reduced economic efficiency. Other impediments to increased agricultural production included inadequate access to: land, infrastructure, financing, new technologies and international markets. Biofuels had also driven up the price of certain crops. The second generation of biofuels would, however, be manufactured from cellulose fibres, thereby releasing the pressure on agricultural production. Accordingly, steps must be taken to help the poor increase their agricultural productivity. The International Food Policy Research Institute estimated that 14 to 28 billion dollars of agricultural investment were needed in the developing world; other estimates were even higher.

42. It was important to ascertain which population groups faced food insecurity and how best to mitigate adverse trends and shocks. While early warning systems did exist, in many areas many others lacked the remote-sensing infrastructure needed to provide food security alerts. Timely delivery of relevant remotely sensed data to decision makers was also needed. He therefore stressed the need for funding for agriculture-related remote-sensing missions.

43. Finally, he said that over the long term, policy innovations would be required to address a variety of issues including property rights, subsidies, tariffs and trade bans and that reliable spatial earth observation systems would also be needed to monitor interactions with bioenergy, forestry and biochemicals, with a view to ensuring that scarce land resources were properly managed to benefit vulnerable populations.

44. **Mr. Murata** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO had used remote sensing data to develop the "Africa Real Time Environmental Monitoring Information System", which had proved very useful in monitoring rainfall, harvest conditions, drought, locust swarms and food aid requirements in Africa.

45. In the past, planners trying to find suitable sites for growing a particular crop had had to manually reconcile different types of maps and written information in order to get the necessary data. It was now possible to combine remote sensing data with land-based information to provide a wide range of outputs, including three-dimensional views, maps and tables. FAO had used the computer-based Geographic Information System (GIS) to, inter alia, identify potential irrigation areas in Africa and to map Kenya's agricultural zones.

46. Satellite data combined with land-based information could help planners and policymakers in the developing world make a wide range of decisions. FAO would continue working to help solve the food crisis.

47. **Mr. González** (Chile) noted that the world had changed considerably since remote sensing principles had first been adopted and those principles urgently required updating, as they no longer corresponded to political or legal realities and did not meet the needs of developing countries.

48. Noting that important work was being done in the Latin American region, he stressed that interregional dialogue should play a key role in tackling food insecurity. Latin America was ready to engage with other regions on the incorporation of codes of conduct or "soft law", so that scientific issues would be given the necessary legal backing. Chile attached great importance to that topic and was willing to make its work available to all other delegations.

49. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) noting that the information gained from observation satellites in respect of food security showed that technology alone could not solve the problem, said that she would be grateful if the panellists could comment on international cooperation instruments that might contribute to the establishment of national and regional systems aimed at better using space technology in the area of food security.

50. **Mr. Lichem** (Austria) proposed that the Fourth Committee should, as a general practice, invite other agencies to consider how space technology could be of value in areas that normally did not appear relevant.

51. **Mr. Arévalo Yepes** (Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space) said that low-income countries did not have the capacity to establish mechanisms to enhance the use of spaced-based technology in confronting climate change and food insecurity. Regional initiatives therefore played an important role, as could be seen in Latin America, Africa and the Asian Pacific.

52. **Mr. O'Connor** (Division for Sustainable Development), replying to the question by the representative of Togo regarding the origin of the severe floods in the West African region, and how long they could be expected to last, referred the representative of Togo to a book published by National Geographic Press entitled "Six Degrees", which described scenarios in which climate patterns were affected by changes in the global average temperature.

53. **Mr. Nilsson** (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) noted that, while remote sensing technologies were useful for early warning of flooding, the duration of the flooding in West Africa would depend on the stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.